Letters to the editor

A response to 'Concerned Citizen'

Dear Editor:

In response to the letter which appeared in last week's issue by "Concerned Citizen" and your response, I have some comments.

First, in response to your question that the Home Rule Charter is not being used right. Everyone has their own concept of the rules and that's what causes the problems.

In answer to the second question, 'yes' both to each part. Financially, the old form of government would eliminate the jobs of finance director and city manager. Under the old form, these two positions would be elected offices – city controller and city treasurer. They would be classed in pay like councilmembers, partly paid by the city and partly by the county. The elimination of these present jobs would save city taxpayers close to $30,000 or more, which could be used in other ways such as paving streets or hiring more policemen.

Politically, it would mean that the mayor would be at council meetings, or be president of council, instead of sitting in the back of council chambers during a meeting, or in his office, or not being there at all.

Under the old form, each council member would have a department that would be his or her responsibility. As an example, one councilmember would run the street department, recreation department and the like. That way more people would be involved in running the city.

As for the recall of elected officials, it can be done. I called the office of Community Affairs in Harrisburg and all you have to do, according to the information I was told, is have 20 voters as an advisory board and go over the charter, have an amendment passed for a recall vote and hold a new election where the voters would decide to keep or eliminate the Home Rule Charter.

Signed,

Another Concerned Citizen
Mr. Robert McDonough
Belmont Street